

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council

Jan. 13, 2009 Minutes

Jan. 13, 2009

Members present:

Lindsay A	President	Greg S	Evangelism
Dan T.	Vice President	James P	Worship & Music
Chuck P.	Treasurer	Lyle S	Ex Officio, Past President
Mark S	Management		
John D	Secretary	Rick M	Social Concerns
Leslie B	Stewardship	Staff	Kathy F
Gary S	Property	Pastor	Sue W
Althea E	Cong. Life		
Lowell W	Christ. Ed.		

Absent: Laurie S, Youth

President Lindsay A called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

Devotions were led by Chuck P.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 12/09/08 council meeting were approved with corrections.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor W has agreed to serve as our preacher for 3 weeks of the month during the call process. She has arranged for visiting pastors for the last week of January and February. She reports that we have two requests for two baptisms on February 8. Assisting Minister training has started and the women's bible study has made the change from Thursdays to Tuesday at 10:00 with no problems. There will be increased emphasis on the training of our acolytes.

New Business, Proposed Annual Meeting Agenda

Lindsay A presented the agenda proposed for the upcoming congregational meeting. The council approved the agenda with minor changes.

Lyle announced that in accordance with our constitution (C13.02) six members of the congregation have agreed to be nominated as the 2009-10 nominating committee. These members are: Dean P, Chuck M, Kathryn K, Curtis H, Carole P, John L in addition to our current president, Lindsay A, who automatically serves as chairman of the committee.

Committee Updates

Worship & Music

Jamie P introduced Michael Y who presented the council with a thorough analysis of the effect of the "Fresh Worship" Service on attendance at Holy Trinity. The service has been beneficial, not only at the 10:15 service but also to the 8:00 AM service. A copy of his analysis is attached to the office copy of this report.

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Chrade Y reports that the fame of our HTLC Sanctus choir has led to it being invited to sing at a Saturday evening service at St. James Cathedral this Spring. In addition Chrade is hoping to host a larger "Musical Feast" in May featuring several large performing choirs/ensembles from throughout the Seattle Metro area. Proceeds will go to benefit Habitat for Humanity, Agros International / El Milagro and our Pastor's Discretionary Fund and Emergency Feeding Program.

Congregational Life

Althea reported that Women's Bible study will be meeting on Tuesdays at 10:00 except for the first Tuesday of the month, when Rebekah Circle meets.

Kathy F reported: Christian Education committee approved a meeting "Women of the Congregation" on February 1 to explore WELCA, women's bible study, prayer groups, Bible groups, and retreats. February 22 will be "Bold Women's Sunday", a continuation of a churchwide WELCA observation now in its third year.

HTLC is planning to have a blood drive. We need just 25 people to sign up, so roll up your sleeve and join in.

It's time for our annual MS Walk. This year Team Piehl will be walking on Bainbridge Island. Save the Date: Saturday, April 4!! Transportation will be arranged.

Stewardship

Leslie presented an overview of the stewardship committee meeting for the council. A copy of her report is appended to the office copy of these minutes. Highlights included:

A summary of our "Stewards of Hope" stewardship campaign to date, including Temple Talks, an upcoming Ministry Fair, newsletter and Sunday Bulletin informational articles. Leslie reiterated the convenience and efficiency of "Simply Giving", having our church donations withdrawn automatically from our personal financial accounts.

Next Steps in the Interim Period

Jamie P and Dan T provided a draft "Pastoral Coverage Proposal" defining staff duties during the interim period. This document, appended to the office copy of these minutes, outlined 16 specific areas of church activities, daily operations, and the responsible person or persons for each activity. A motion to accept the recommendations as amended was made and seconded. The measure passed without dissent.

Finance & Management

Chuck P provided draft copies of the church financial status as of December 31. Our expenditures exceeded income by \$49,000. Then a draft of the proposed HTLC budget for 2009 was discussed. It was suggested that we table the proposed budget until interim pastoral expenses and reserve allocations had been discussed.

Next there was a discussion regarding the covering of health benefits for Pastor A for the month of January. A motion was made and passed without dissent to cover such expenses to the extent needed but not to exceed \$1,000.

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The council then addressed a "Temporary Pastor Compensation Proposal" which considered changing compensation for Pastor Wanwig to reflect her work on behalf of Holy Trinity during the interim period. The motion was approved.

Chuck then proposed transferring and reallocating unutilized fund balances that have been carried on the books for some time. A motion to reallocate these funds was made, seconded and passed without dissent. The closed items will be merged into specified accounts held for the purpose of financing unbudgeted items. Chuck then made a proposal to recommend to the congregation to not repay past borrowing from designated funds, and to provide for certain additional future notifications to the congregation in the event of variations from approved budgets. (This proposal is attached to the office copy) A lively discussion followed. Lyle suggested that we wait on this proposal until we call a new pastor and address our financial status at that time. Chuck then withdrew 4 of the 6 proposed items. A motion was made to accept two items as resolutions of the council i.e., that the congregation be informed of any deficit over \$15,000, and that a special congregational meeting shall be called if the deficit passes \$25,000. The motion was seconded and passed without dissent.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
John D
Secretary

February 10, 2009

Members present:

Lindsay A	President	James P	Worship & Music
Dan T	Vice President	Greg S	Evangelism
Chuck P	Treasurer	Lyle S	Ex Officio, Past President
John D	Secretary		
Leslie B	Stewardship	Staff	Kathy F
Gary S	Property	Pastor	Sue W
Althea E	Congr. Life		
Lowell W	Christian. Ed.		

Absent: Mark S, Management, Laurie S, Youth, and Rick M, Social Concerns

Vice President Dan T called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

Devotions were led by John D.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 01/13/09 council meeting were approved.

Pastor's Report

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Pastor W outlined the preparations for services during Lent and Easter. Midweek Lenten services will focus on the "body of Christ" with lay members providing testimony or reflection. We will have a "home made" liturgy with some borrowing from a new Holden Village liturgy.

Our visiting chaplain on Feb. 22nd is from the Maritime ministry which serves visiting seamen here in Seattle. On March 29th, we will have a Hispanic chaplain.

Treasurer

Chuck reported that January was a disappointment. See financial report attached to office copy.

Chuck requested a council resolution regarding pastoral housing allowances i.e., "In accordance with IRS regulations, confirm and ratify pastoral housing allowances previously discussed and submitted to the IRS for 2007 and 2008". Council voted to affirm that resolve.

Committee Updates

Stewardship

Leslie provided an overview of the stewardship committee activities. These include: an ambitious and enthusiastic approach to the stewardship campaign for 2009, details of the upcoming ministry fair, the "Get in Touch" congregational contact program, stewardship articles in the newsletter and Sunday bulletins. More thorough descriptions are attached to the office copy of this report.

Evangelism

Greg S handed out maps showing the approximate locations of HTLC members, a good first step in providing members with information as to members living in their neighborhoods, which lends itself to cooperation with some of the stewardship committee goals i.e., HTLC Neighborhood Care Groups. These groups are envisioned as 8 to 10 groups of HTL members, based on geography and categories, led by 2 leaders who take the role for 18 to 24 months. The goal of the Neighborhood Care Groups is to promote community, kindness, and involvement through increased contact and service to church functions by these neighborhood groups. Additional description is attached to the office copy of this report.

Worship & Music

Jamie P opened a discussion regarding the possibility of adding visual images during the service. This provoked a lively discussion. The issue will be pursued further in future meetings as more opinions are solicited.

New Business

Kathy noted that it was good to see some new, and some old, faces at "Friendship Sunday". One of the results of the "Women of the Congregation" meeting on 1 Feb.

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was to confirm that there was an interest in a women's evening bible study and a retreat. Possible times for the bible study are Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings. For "Bold Women's Sunday" she has a DVD of the life of Katherine Luther. Also, our Mardi Gras party will feature live Dixie Land music, beignets, gumbo, beads and revelry, all to raise money for the upcoming youth mission trip to the hurricane-destroyed New Orleans Lower 9th Ward and the 2009 National Youth Gathering.

Girl Scout Sunday is March 8th. Buy cookies!

Call Committee Update

Lyle reported that the first round of interviews for our new pastor have been completed. They are now embarking on a second round of interviews with two pastors. After the call committee makes its selection, the council will be invited to meet the candidate and hear him/her speak.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
John D
Secretary

March 10, 2009

Members present:

Lindsay A	President	Althea E	Cong. Life
Dan T	Vice President	James P	Worship & Music
Chuck P	Treasurer	Laurie S	Youth Ministries
John D	Secretary	Lyle S	Ex Officio, Past President
Leslie B	Stewardship	Staff	Kathy F
Gary S	Property	Pastor	Sue W
Mark S	Management		
Rick M	Social Concerns		
Lowell W	Christ. Ed		

Absent: Jamie P , Worship and Music, Greg S, Evangelism

President Lindsay A called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m..
Devotions were led by Lowell W.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 10th council meeting were approved as written.

Pastor's Report

Pastor W reported that we were off to a good start for Lent, with 35 at last week's Wednesday service, and asked that we encourage more to attend on Good Friday. The

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Wednesday soup supper / Lenten service attendance is good and, if numbers increase, we may have to move the service to the main sanctuary. On Wednesday evenings and Sunday 8:00 a.m. service we have had a regular guest who has been living in his car and has received emergency food from Kirsten. Welcome him amongst us.

Habitat for Humanity Presentation

Brendan R introduced Bob S who provided an update on Habitat activities in our area. Bob has replaced Woody Carlson as local focal point for Habitat activities. (Please see the office copy of this report for Thrivent/Habitat for Humanity). Thrivent / Habitat will be building two more homes in two weeks starting May 29th. HTLC is asked to volunteer to build, to donate funds and to support the upcoming golf tournament & auction to be held on Monday, August 31st.

Presentation of candidate for Call

Lyle S reported that the call committee had reached an agreement to “unanimously and enthusiastically” present Pastor Deanna W as the final candidate in our search for a senior pastor. He provided the council with details of Pastor W’s background and pastoral history, a copy of which is to be provided to all members of the HTLC congregation and is appended to this report. Lyle asked that the council ratify the call committee recommendation. A motion was made to accept, was seconded and passed without dissent.

Chuck P then outlined the proposed compensation package for Pastor W. The pastoral compensation package reflects the differences in cost of living between Grand Forks and Seattle, in addition to the normal factors required in pastoral compensation considerations as provided by the synod. A motion to present the proposed compensation package to the congregation for a vote was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

If the congregation votes to accept the call committee recommendation of Pastor W, and if the congregation votes to accept the proposed compensation package, Pastor W could be on board by the end of the 2nd quarter.

The 21st through the 23rd of March was set aside for “meet and greet” opportunities between the pastoral candidate and our congregation.

A motion was made that on Easter Sunday, at a congregational meeting held between the morning services (9:30 a.m.), the congregation vote on the acceptance of A) Pastor W and B) her associated compensation package. The motion was seconded and passed without dissent.

Treasurer Report

Chuck provided the up-to-date balance sheet for brief discussion. Expenditures and income are as estimated. A copy of the balance sheet is attached to the office copy of this report.

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Mutual Ministry Discussion

The newly formed Mutual Ministry Committee was introduced (Dean P, Mary C, Dian S) and Dean gave a brief outline of their (constitutional) responsibilities. They have had their initial organizational meeting. They recommended familiarity with the book "Pastors and People, Making Mutual Ministry Work". They have had a very positive meeting with the staff members. All issues brought to the attention of the committee will be held in confidence, and those bringing up issues will receive follow-up. The committee will respond to requests as a "troika" and not as individuals. The committee continues to work on procedures re. how to implement solutions.

The committee wishes to have a Sunday morning forum for the congregation to promote dialog.

Committee Updates

Congregational Life

Althea is planning a work party to clean the sanctuary on the 20th. She will also organize refreshments etc. for all three "meet and greet" opportunities for Pastor W.

Stewardship

Leslie called our attention again to the upcoming Mutual Ministry Fair. Things are going well.

The call committee will prepare and implement follow-up activities for the council in order to disseminate to the congregation as much information as possible prior to the scheduled opportunities to meet the proposed new pastor.

Other Business

Dian S brought up the church library. Her basic question is, "Who is in charge?" It was noted that the Christian Education Committee had that authority / responsibility.

Dean P reported that some of our youth have been helping out at NW Harvest monthly. He suggests that we make a formal commitment to that schedule. He also reported that we had good response to the work party.

Dian S repotted the indoor plants.

The meeting adjourned 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John D
Secretary

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April 14, 2009

Members present:

Lindsay Anderson	President	Jamie Park	Worship & Music
Dan Thieme	Vice President	Laurie Sperber	Youth Ministries
Chuck Pietka	Treasurer	Rick Morck	Social Concerns
John Donaldson	Secretary	Lyle Snyder	Ex Officio, Past President
Leslie Byrnes	Stewardship		
Gary Schill	Property	Greg Schroedl,	Evangelism
Mark Simon	Management	Staff	Kathy Fisher
Althea Esterley	Cong. Life	Pastor	Sue Wanwig
Lowell Williams	Christ. Ed		

President Lindsay Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Devotions were led by Dan Thieme.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 10 council meeting were approved as modified by council.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Wanwig was gratified by attendance at the Lenten Wednesday evening and Good Friday services, and noted that it was a welcome sight to see some old familiar faces at the Easter services.

With respect to the church library, Sue noted that it was good to see Edith Cropp back working in the library. Edith will try to continue helping there once a week. Furthermore, Women's bible study is off to a good start, and the participation at our church by El Camino de Emaus on March 29 was well received. Sue represented the Lutheran Church at the annual interment of the remains of indigents.

During the upcoming meeting of the Maritime Ministries (Apr. 25-26) Pr. Wanwig will help with transportation in addition to her participation.

At the synod convention, participants will be provided with a booklet outlining the histories, strengths and statistics of the congregations in our synod. When interviewing HTLC personnel for this book, the editors were impressed with the strengths and outreach of our church.

Chuck Pietka asked what the council should be considering during our transition to a new pastor. Sue replied that she would like to continue with visitations and continue in "the rotation". Lyle added that our prospective pastor, Deanna Wildermuth, has mentioned that she would appreciate Sue's help.

Speaking of "rotation", Pr. Iver Haugen will preside at a service this coming month.

Call Committee Update

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May 12, 2009 Minutes

Lyle Snyder reported on the next steps in the call process. The Wildermuth family has yet to find a home here in Seattle and to arrange for moving. They are still looking. Synod paperwork still has to be completed. Chuck Pietka is helping coordinate details with the Wildermuths.

Stewardship

Leslie passed around copies of the Stewardship Committee minutes and her report agenda. Discussion centered around the upcoming Ministry Fair, April 26. Leslie will be working with Kirsten Olshausen to assure that the heads of the various committees have representatives manning their respective tables during the event.

Leslie reported favorable responses from our “friendly call” program to inform the congregation of the meet and greet functions and the attendant gathering of congregational information. She feels that a similar effort may be productive to call broad attention to the arrival of our new pastor.

A “New Pastor” contribution campaign letter will go out after the upcoming newsletter. New Pastor monetary donations will have to be identified as such.

Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting must be scheduled (for May 17) to elect new council members and to update the HTLC constitution. It was decided to hold the meeting between services from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM. We need biographies of candidates to be circulated (website and newsletter) to the membership by 1 May.

Dan Thieme brought up a few “housekeeping” items that had to be addressed in keeping with the constitution. First, amendments to the “2007 Amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations” had to be made, and second, the Articles of Amendment of HTLC required formal adoption. Dan then made a motion that the council propose to the congregation that the changes to the model constitution be adopted. The motion was seconded. Lyle Snyder commented that the congregation be informed that the suggested changes came from the Synod and not from the council. This was agreed to. The motion then passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Dan then moved that the council recommend to the congregation that the proposed articles of amendment be adopted. The motion was seconded and then passed without dissent.

Committee Updates

Property

Gary has been busy and reports that our 1954 water heater has been replaced with a new one” not guaranteed to last that long”. He has also unhooked the water to the bathrooms at the back of the chapel as they are now, and will be in the future, used as store rooms. A new janitorial service has been hired and will start on the first of the month. There will be no increase in cost.

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Social Concerns

Rick Morck updated the financial situation with our support of El Milagro, which is in its last year. We are slightly behind in our usual contributions, so Rick will solicit previous contributors while working in concert with other HTLC fundraising.

A second trip to El Milagro is being negotiated with AGROS. We have an abundance of new and former trip members wanting to go and would like to have a second visit. Rick is working with AGROS and hopes to have their input and a trip plan by our next meeting.

Rick asks, "What is our next outreach plan?" Initial suggestions included local as well as foreign possibilities.

Evangelism

Greg Schroedl provided an outline of HTLC Neighborhood Clusters, what they are, what they do, and what the readers do. Due to a computer problem, his full presentation had to be postponed until the next council meeting, although it will be shown during the ministry fair. Group activities will include phone trees, address trees and one social event per year.

Mutual Ministry Committee

Dian Schill reported that the Mutual Ministry Committee had discussed having the terms of office changed from 2 years to 3 years. No changes would be required of the Model Constitution to implement such a change. The pros and cons of such a change were discussed. It was decided to maintain the status quo for at least the present year.

Worship and Music

Jamie Park introduced a proposal regarding compensation for the choir section leaders. After a brief discussion a motion was made to raise the section leaders' stipend to the recommended amount and that the raise be retroactive to 1 January. The motion was seconded and passed without dissent.

Congregational Life

Althea will be planning a welcome fete for the new pastor and her family as soon as dates are known.

165 notes announcing the Mother-Daughter luncheon are being mailed. The Mother-Daughter function has been neglected these past few years, and its resumption is a welcome addition to our HTLC functions.

Finance

Chuck Pietka outlined our financial condition. Although we had a "pretty good" March we need to be sensitive to giving, which is running behind our budgeted amount by about \$10,000.

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The question of giving by credit card was brought up. Chuck will look into the details of that process but cautioned that it might conflict, and not be as cost free as the "Simply Giving" program presently in place.

The pastoral call committee expenses are overrun by about \$1,000. Pastoral moving expenses are yet to come.

Youth and Christian Education

Kathy reports that Women's Bible study is off to a good start on the 1st Tuesday and 2nd Saturday. The Sunday School curriculum for next year has been ordered. The confirmation class will be visiting Herzl-Ner Tamid synagogue on Mercer Island to hear Rabbi Rosenbaum. The confirmation class has undertaken the task of replacing the processional cross stolen in a break-in last summer and have made significant progress in finding the funds, i.e., income from the Easter breakfast and an allocation from the Ron James memorial fund.

Vacation Bible School is all set to take off on Aug. 17. On July 2 we will take part in Summer Celebration Parade. A contest among our youth will decide the T-shirt design.

Kathy reported that we raised \$3,000 at the MS walk.

Other Business

Lindsay provided details of disbursements from the Endowment Fund amounting to \$5,600. They included: a tuition grant to Kelsey Smith at Wartburg Seminary, funds to refurbish the women's rest room, grants to The Grunewald Guild, Camp Lutherwood, Emergency Feeding and our music program.

The meeting adjourned 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John Donaldson
Secretary
jnbdonal6206@comcast.net

May 12, 2009

Members present:

Lindsay Anderson	President	James Park	Worship & Music
Dan Thieme	Vice President	Laurie Sperber	Youth Ministries
Chuck Pietka	Treasurer	Greg Schroedl	Evangelism
John Donaldson	Secretary	Lyle Snyder	Ex Officio, Past President
Gary Schill	Property		
Mark Simon	Management		
Althea Esterley	Cong. Life	Staff	Kathy Fisher

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Pastor	Sue Wanwig
Lowell Williams	Christ. Ed
Jamie Park	Worship and Music

Absent; Leslie Byrnes Stewardship, Rick Morck, Social Concerns

President Lindsay Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Devotions

A presentation of "Life in the Present", by Dr. Ernest Holms, was led by Mark Simon.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 14 council meeting were approved as modified by council.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Wanwig reported that the orientation for assisting ministers went well. We will be welcoming into membership Sharon and Vince Augenstein and Angela Bronson, all of whom have already become active in HTLC endeavors. Sue noted the members willing to read in foreign language for our Pentecost service. She is still looking for a few European language readers. Also noted, our choir will be the visiting choir at St. James Cathedral on May 30, and our organist, David Locke, will participate in a concert at St. Mark's Cathedral the following day. As one of our members was unable to attend the synod convention as previously planned, Sue recommended that the council accept Linda Stoullil as substitute. A motion was made to that effect, seconded and was subsequently passed unanimously.

Pastor Sue noted that sometimes there was too much detail in the council minutes, sometimes lacking in sensitivity. Our goal, it was agreed, should be transparency with discretion. It was resolved that the council should more diligently review and edit the minutes prior to acceptance.

Transition to New Pastor

President Lindsay Anderson reported that Pastor Deanna Wildermuth has formally accepted our offer.

Jamie Park suggested that a small team (2 or 3 members) assist Pastor Wildermuth regarding the "nuts and bolts" of the transition and provide general information on HTLC i.e., office procedures, computers.

A date for formal installation of Pastor Wildermuth has yet to be determined.

May 17 Congregational Meeting

Dan provided copies of the agenda proposed for the congregational meeting and changes required for the HTLC constitution and articles of incorporation. These materials are also to be distributed to the congregation (mailing) and copies made available at the May 17 meeting. The council agreed to Dan's proposal.

The slate of candidates proposed to fill outgoing council positions was presented. The list was approved for presentation to the congregation for vote at the May 17 meeting.

Resolution of Negligence Lawsuit Against HTLC

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This legal case resulted from an injury to a Vacation Bible School student that was caused accidentally by a young VBS counselor. An arbitration resulted in a small judgment against HTLC (under \$10,000), which our liability insurance will pay. Dan Thieme reported that HTLC's lawyer believes we were not negligent, but recommended that we not appeal the ruling due to the small size of the award. Kathy Fisher questioned future VBS activities in light of the arbitrator's ruling. It was agreed that VBS activities should continue as in the past, with all VBS counselors to be trained on safety, including "no horseplay." It was also noted that any future accidents should be brought to the attention of the Council President promptly. (In this case, the pastor was aware of the incident but the Council was not made aware until later.)

Mutual Ministry

The mutual ministry committee brought 3 items to the council's attention:

- 1) What is the procedure for reimbursement for purchases benefiting HTLC? When are receipts required?
- 2) What policy should HTLC adopt regarding dogs on the property?
- 3) How can we best avoid HTLC calendar conflicts?

Regarding item 1, Chuck Pietka will provide information regarding the appropriate procedures.

With respect to item 2), dogs in church, after considerable discussion it was decided that animals could be in church under certain circumstances. A motion was made that the following procedure be observed:

No animals of any kind are allowed on church premises during Sunday services, or during any outside event such as weddings, funerals, etc., or other formal events. An exception applies for the annual Blessing of the Animals.

Animals of pastors or staff members may be permitted at other times under the following conditions: Permission must first be obtained in advance from the Executive Committee of the Council (the officers). The animal must be well behaved (i.e., no inappropriate behavior), supervised by the owner and confined to the owner's work area. Permission to have an animal on HTLC grounds can be revoked at any time by the council or by the Executive Committee.

The motion was seconded. During discussion it was agreed to amend the motion to exempt service animals from this resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Regarding schedule conflicts, it was decided that the office manager (Kirsten Olshausen) would maintain the church schedule. Those wishing to schedule an event should coordinate with the church office.

Chuck Pietka noted that some mutual ministry inquiries, which are all handled in confidence, may imply wrongdoing. He suggested that the Mutual Ministry Committee might best direct such inquiries to the appropriate council member (committee).

Committee Updates

Finance Report

Chuck reported that we finished the month "in the black", and that moving expenses for Pr. Wildermuth are not yet finalized but expected to be near estimates.

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Stewardship

Letters to the congregation regarding the "New Pastor Fund" are in the mail.

Property

Gary announced that we now have a newly painted Fellowship Hall. Lots of thanks to Gary and Dian Schill for their work there! We have also hired a new cleaning service. Dian and Linda Magley are working on cleaning and improving the lighting at the bottom of the stairs leading into the Fellowship Hall.

Christian Ed.

Lowell reported that next year's curriculum has been ordered, and that VBS plans are essentially complete. We will be participating in the annual Mercer Island "Summer Celebration" parade again this year. Be there!

Evangelism

Reports that good progress has been made in getting people to sign up as neighborhood leaders and plans a September kickoff meeting.

Worship and Music

Jamie announced that our summer worship schedule, a single service at 9:00 AM, begins on June 21st. We are also looking into means for the purchase of the latest hymnals.

Congregational Life

Althea reported that the Mother-Daughter luncheon / fashion show was a big success, with around 120 attendees.

Youth

Laurie Sperber announced that this summer HTLC will help sponsor a young lady from our sister synod in Ethiopia. She is active in her home church as a choir leader and she loves to play guitar and keyboard. HTLC will have the opportunity of helping contribute to her expenses.

Other Business

The meeting adjourned 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John Donaldson
Secretary

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June 9, 2009 Minutes

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Members present:

Dan Thieme President
Brendan Rorem Vice President
Chuck Pietka Treasurer
John Donaldson Secretary
Gary Schill Property

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Management Tom Elzey
Cong. Life Lynn Tuttle
Youth Ministries Laurie Sperber
Christian Ed. Bridget Swanson
Worship and Music Jamie Park
Evangelism Jeff Deuel
Stewardship Leslie Byrnes
Social Concerns Mary Casady
Staff:

Pastor Deanna Wildermuth

Pastor Sue Wanwig

Kathy Fisher

Absent Ex Officio, Past President, Lindsay Anderson

President Dan Thieme called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Devotions

The council was led in an opening prayer by Pastor Wildermuth.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Sue thanked everyone for their support and the many appreciative comments for

her service as interim lead Pastor. Sue noted that there will be a second orientation for

assisting ministers. She has written up notes ("a work in progress") and is coordinating with Leslie on the task. The notes will be distributed to assisting ministers soon. The

Mercer Island Clergy Association seeks to make M.I. a more "green" community by

urging environmental awareness and stewardship. There will be no tent city on M.I. for

at least a year. Tent City likes M.I. and would like to return. They prefer short physical

moves rather than large jumps over the area.

Pastor Wildermuth will try to visit all of the small group gatherings of HTLC, i.e. the book

group, the bible studies etc. This will not be her normal pattern but is intended solely for

familiarization. She noted that her housing allowance has to be addressed as required

by the Federal Tax code. Pastor Deanna then distributed a question and answer sheet

to the council, requesting council members' visions for HTLC in the coming months. She

has asked for similar input from the staff.

Compass Center Meal Coverage

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council

May 12, 2009 Minutes

Dan Thieme and Mary Casady reported that Holy Trinity may lose its opportunity to serve scheduled breakfasts at the Compass Center. Our present schedule is to serve breakfast on the 4th Sunday of the month. Four to six people are required for a functional crew. Leslie Byrnes noted that the Ministry Fair has provided names of some potential volunteers. Jamie Park suggested that this was also an opportunity to get the confirmation classes involved directly in HTLC outreach. The ideal breakfast crew would be 6 to 8 volunteers, one of whom should be an experienced lead cook. A “mini-retreat” for volunteer orientation was proposed.

Council Member Orientation

Dan provided each council member with a copy of the HTLC constitution pertaining to the duties of officers (C11.01.01) and asked that each member become familiar with the portion describing their individual responsibilities. Each member was asked to identify one thing in their area of responsibility that they wish to focus upon during the coming year.

Council Retreat Planning

An informal discussion regarding when to have a council retreat resulted in general agreement on the date of July 14th, from 5:30 till 9 p.m.

Pastor Deanna Installation Planning

After considering the schedules of synod and HTLC participants, it has been determined that the formal installation service for Pastor Wildermuth will be held on September 27th at 3:00 PM.

Council Member Installation

It was agreed that formal installation of all council members would take place during the 10:15 service on June 14th.

Several extraneous measures were then addressed.

Should the council meet in August? Yes.

Should we continue to publish the council minutes in the church bulletin? The council's

intent was to keep the congregation fully informed on council activities. The requirement

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that council minutes be read by the council and submitted for approval at the next monthly meeting renders the minutes 6 weeks old when distributed in the bulletin. Chuck Pietka suggested, and volunteered to provide, an executive summary for immediate release in the bulletin following approval by the executive council. Complete minutes will no longer be published in the newsletter but will continue to be posted for the congregation to read on the church bulletin board and on the website. Attendant to this discussion was consideration of distributing the church bulletin by email to those members requesting e-copies. Potential problems with partial e-mail distribution might be that postal distribution rates could increase due to decreased volume, thereby eliminating any possible savings. Kathy Fisher will investigate the details of alternative distribution and also look into gathering HTLC member e-mail addresses.

Committee Updates

Finance Report

Chuck reports that we have had a very good month, expenses are all under control, our new pastor campaign funding has been reasonably on track. His investigation of using credit cards vis-à-vis "Simply Giving" is continuing. Council President Thieme had previously requested that we consider two urgent business items. First a resolution pertaining to who should be authorized to communicate with the Bank of America on behalf of HTLC for business purposes. A motion was made that Dan Thieme, Brendan Rorem, Chuck Pietka, John Donaldson, Kirsten Olshausen, and Tom Elzey be authorized for such tasks. The motion was seconded and subsequently passed without dissent.

Second, Dan had asked that the council formally decide who could sign HTLC checks.

The council suggested that Dan Thieme, Brendan Rorem, Chuck Pietka, Lindsay Anderson, Tom Elzey and John Donaldson be authorized to sign HTLC checks .

A motion was made to that effect, seconded and was passed without dissent.

Stewardship

Leslie provided an overview of the stewardship committee meeting for the council (see yellow page attached to office copy of these minutes). Results from the Spring Ministry

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Fair were so encouraging that a Fall Ministry Fair is being planned. "The goal is to educate and garner support for all possible volunteer areas."

Congregational Life

Lynn reported that her committee has help, both veteran and new. She will be adding to her committee as there is a great deal of planned activities which they are excited to pursue.

Youth

Jackie King and Doris James have met with the artist charged with making our new processional cross. The artist has the original drawings and will provide us with a close reproduction of the original initially provided by Herm Kelsch in memory of Gerry Kelsch.

Three plaques will be attached to the cross, one for Ron James, another for H. & G.

Kelsch and one for the confirmation class, all in recognition of financial contributions.

"Hamomi": a drive to collect loose change in support of Hamomi ("Harmony"), a Kenyan

home and school for orphaned or destitute children in Nairobi. Our youth's goal for

HTLC is to collect \$600, which will feed 100 children for one month.

A car wash to raise money for the New Orleans mission trip is scheduled for June 20th

at the M.I. QFC.

Christian Ed.

Bridget Swanson announced that there is now a Library Committee, with Edith Cropp as

chairperson, which will undertake to overhaul the library and the check-out system.

Bridget is also looking into the possibility of a Rally Sunday picnic in Luther Burbank

park. The M.I. Summer Celebration parade on July 11th has the theme "Around the

World" and HTLC will BE THERE!

Property

Gary reports that the parking lots will be cleaned and restriped. A big thank you to Otto

Steffin and Norm Craig for their work in restoring the tiles on the atrium floor. The old

bathrooms at the rear of the chapel have been converted to storage space.

Evangelism

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Jeff Deuel will meet with Greg Schroedl to assure continuity in evangelism programs. He suggests that we place an add in the MI Reporter announcing Pr. Wildermuths installation date. He will also try to update the directory in the coming year. There was some discussion regarding an updated directory. We would like to continue with the present membership list for a while in anticipation of some former members returning, but we have synod reporting requirements that may preclude extensive delays in membership reporting. Details will be worked out to meet requirements.

Dan Thieme made a motion that we allocate up to \$500 for vinyl banners for the new posts at the NE corner of the upper parking lot. This was seconded and approved without dissent.

Social Concerns

Mary Casady will attempt to get the confirmation classes involved in social concerns, possibly including an 8th grade student on the committee. HTLC's support of El Milagro may continue for another year as the village is "not where AGROS wanted it to be".
The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
John Donaldson
Secretary

SUMMARY OF HTLC COUNCIL RETREAT- JULY 14, 2009

The Church Council met in a retreat setting in lieu of a July council meeting. The retreat was held as an orientation to new council members and as a refresher for continuing members. It was not an official meeting of the council and no actions were taken.

President Dan T. led the meeting. Four members of the council were unable to attend.

The early part of the meeting was dedicated to a light meal and a warm-up exercise to help all members become better acquainted.

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Dan then led the council through selected portions of the constitution related to council and committee responsibilities. The discussion also addressed the Mutual Ministry committee (which reported that it had its initial meeting with Pastor Wildermuth early in July). The Congregational Covenant was also reviewed, and the discussion focused on “keeping the Covenant alive”. An outline of the actions and activities required of the council through May 2010 was also reviewed.

Each Committee Chair present gave a short report on their plans. The plans were in various stages of development. All committees present provided a report. The highlights were:

- The Evangelism Committee continues to develop the neighborhood cluster concept and has a sub-committee working on that project. It is also considering a Congregational Directory and options to accomplish this on our own. The committee is also testing a “Greeters-at-large” concept and a “No one sits alone” program.
- The Worship and Music Committee has initiated a process to study the possible adoption of the new “Cranberry” hymnal, and will present more information to the Council at its August meeting.
- The Social Concerns Committee outlined the status of some programs, in particular the discussion involved El Milagro/Agros and Lutheran Compass Center, as well as other programs.
- The Christian Education Committee reported that it has teachers for all positions except for the “Pre-school/Pre-K” level. Additional volunteers will be appreciated. Vacation Bible School (VBS) is the next big project for the summer.
- The Youth Committee was focused on the New Orleans trip that began the following weekend and discussed some of its plans to help retain high school level students.
- The Congregational Life Committee reviewed some of its plans and its need for more members.

The council also considered how to facilitate and improve communications throughout the congregation and among council and committee members. The Council discussed some ideas to make it clear that all members are welcome to attend council and committee meetings, and to make it easier for members to identify the right person to talk to when they have an idea or concern to share.

The next scheduled meeting of the council will be in the Atrium at HTLC at 7 p.m. on August 11th.

August 11, 2009

Members present:

Brendan R

Vice President

Chuck P

Treasurer

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council

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John D	Secretary	Social Concerns	Mary C
Gary S	Property	Staff:	
Management	Tom E	Pastor Deanna W	
Cong. Life	Lynn T	Pastor Sue W	
Youth Ministries	Laurie S	Kathy F	
Christian Ed.	Bridget S		
Worship and Music	Jamie P		
Stewardship	Leslie B		
Absent	Dan T (President), Jeff D (Evangelism), Lindsay Anderson (Past President)		

Vice President Brendan R called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Devotions

The council meeting was opened with a devotional reading by John D.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written. As the secretary will be absent from the September meeting, Leslie B volunteered to serve as secretary for that meeting.

Pastors' Report

Pastor W, after noting a good turnout at the Rebekah Circle tea, outlined some of her plans for the fall. Rally Sunday, Sept. 13th, will feature a blessing of our three to four year olds. This is not only to bless our youngsters, but to remind parents of the promises made at their children's baptisms. Sunday, August 30th will also feature a "Blessing of school backpacks", backpacks meaning whatever you carry with you to work, i.e. laptop, briefcase etc... On Sept 20th a procession of our children will lead our new processional cross down the aisle for its dedication. Details of Pastor Wildermuth's installation on Sept. 27rd at 3:00 p.m. were also discussed.

Pastor Wanwig plans some short travel in September as well as attending evening continuing education classes.

Rally Sunday Planning

Rally Sunday is promised to be Fun! Fun! Fun! with games for the children downstairs (rain) or outside (fair) , balloons (and a balloon release) . Congregation members will also be provided the opportunity to volunteer for some of the recurring services to the church, i.e. ushers, lectors etc... Pastor Wildermuth suggested that (~ half of) most congregations are unfamiliar with the requirements of these basic volunteer opportunities, hence they are reluctant to step forward. We, the active members, should not assume that everyone is as familiar with these tasks as we are. It was suggested that these job descriptions be written out and posted, and furthermore, that such written job descriptions be made available to volunteers.

"Coffee with the council" planning

It was resolved that council members be available for coffee and casual conversation with church members several times a year to discuss issues of interest. Coffee to be provided by the council. The first such meeting will be on Oct.11th.

Meeting Minutes

Approval of 2009 housing allowance

Chuck P made a motion to accept the following resolution regarding the required housing allowance for pastor Wildermuth:

“Whereas the Internal Revenue Service requires pastors who allocate some of their income to a housing allowance to have that amount approved by the council,

Whereas the treasurer has reviewed the pastor’s requested resolution and found it reasonable,

Therefore, the council hereby approves an allocation of Pastor Wildermuth’s compensation package to “housing allowance” in the amount of \$22,600, effective from the date of her arrival at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church until December 31, 2009.

The motion was seconded and passed without dissent.

Committee Updates

Finance Report

Treasurer Chuck P outlined our financial position to date. He noted that attendance is up 25% over this same time last year. Giving in July was about \$2,000 below expectations, but the “final report will reflect more receipts than expenses”. We are off to a good start for August, but receipts for this “vacation” month are typically below budget.

Stewardship

Leslie B reported that stewardship focus will adopt a more traditional approach to fundraising in the coming year.

Congregational Life

Lynn reported that we have two upcoming activities coming up this fall, a Fall Festival on October 17th featuring music by Chuck P and David Locke. There will be bratwurst, beer etc. (and soft drinks for the youngsters). Then, on the first Saturday in December (Dec. 5th) we will have our annual Christmas dinner.

Worship and Music

Jamie presented a plan to introduce the new “Cranberry” Hymnal to our congregation. The new hymnal, the first update since 1978, includes several additional settings for services, some new hymns and most of the old favorites. Hymnals cost about \$30.00 apiece and hymnals for HTLC would run about \$7,500. The congregation will have the opportunity to become familiar with this new hymnal prior to any purchase decision.

A motion to move ahead with introducing the new hymnal to the congregation was made and approved by a unanimous vote.

Youth

Upcoming activities for our youth outreach will include a “Mystery Trip” to a more local opportunity, rather than a return to New Orleans next year (which is relatively expensive), and this Advent there will be an auction of well-decorated Christmas trees.

Christian Ed.

Meeting Minutes

Bridget S reported that all Sunday School positions are filled! The nursery has been thoroughly cleaned and the craft closet has been cleaned and reorganized.

Property

Gary related his continuing efforts in maintenance, including saving HTLC some money by re-anchoring the treads on the back stairs, rather than replacing them.

Social Concerns

Mary C reports that they will meet with AGROS regarding the future of our commitment to El Milagro on Sept. 20th. Social Concerns is also considering a new focus for outreach, perhaps something more local. There was a discussion of our "faltering" support of Compass Center breakfasts. Kathy suggests that we start enlisting help from older congregation members in addition to that of our youth volunteers.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John D
Secretary

September 8, 2009

Members Present:

Dan Thieme, President
Brendan Rorem, Vice President
Gary Schill, Property
Tom Elzey, Management
Lynn Tuttle, Congregational Life
Bridget Swanson, Christian Education
Jamie Park, Worship and Music
Jeff Deuel, Evangelism
Leslie Byrnes, Stewardship
Mary Casady, Social Concerns

Lindsay Anderson, Ex Oficio
Pastor Deanna Wildermuth, Sr. Pastor
Pastor Sue Wanwig, Associate Pastor

Staff Present:

Kathy Fisher, Youth Coordinator

Members Absent:

John Donaldson, Secretary
Chuck Pietka, Finance
Laurie Sperber, Youth Ministry

Meeting Called to Order: 7:05 PM by Council President, Dan Thieme
Devotions: Provided by Leslie Byrnes and a sign-up sheet was passed around to obtain coverage for the next nine months.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes: Minutes of the August 11th meeting were amended and approved. The motion was received from Jeff Deuel and seconded by Brendan Rorem. A unanimous vote was received to approve the minutes.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Deanna reported that 60 out of the 180 member information questionnaires that were recently distributed have been returned.

Pastor Deanna is following up on house calls and getting to know members who have not been able to attend services.

Pastor Deanna provided information on the ELCA votes in August to approve a *Social Statement on Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, and a *Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies*. Among other things, these votes allow congregations that choose to do so to find ways to recognize and support lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships and hold them publicly accountable, and commits the ELCA to find a way for people in such relationships to serve as rostered ministry leaders in the ELCA. Further information is available on the ELCA web site.

Pastor Deanna also mentioned the sort of calls she might receive during the day and in which she provides counsel by telephone.

Pastor Deanna's installation on Sept. 27th at 3:00 PM was also discussed.

Blessing of all 3 and 4 year olds will take place on Rally Sunday.

Bridget Swanson will send a card to Redeemer Lutheran Church on the south end of the Island this will be done to recognize the passing of their Pastor on behalf of Holy Trinity.

BUSINESS

Rally Sunday – Pastor Deanna, Kathy Fisher, Laurie Sperber, Lynn Tuttle and Bridget Swanson all have their arms around the upcoming Rally Sunday (September 13th). All Council members are asked to participate by bringing a food item, plus ask a friend to help too, to contribute to the Pizza lunch meal.

Coffee with the Council – October 11th - The Council will host coffee on this day and will also be available to meet and greet, answer questions and/or discuss any topic a congregant might have. Lynn and Jeff will work together on the coffee and all other Council members are asked to bring a dish and try to attend.

Bishop and Assistants Annual Review – Dan asked the members for any input on the aforementioned topic. Please get your input to Dan as soon as possible and he will compose, assemble and turn in the material being requested of Holy Trinity by September 15th.

Human Resources Committee – Dan made a motion and was seconded, to re-elect John Lee to a two-year term on the Human Resources Committee. The term shall conclude June 30th, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

2010 Budget Preparation Planning – Tom Elzey led discussion on the budget planning process and asked each committee chair to submit, to him, their budget needs for the 2010 fiscal year. Each member is to email and or communicate their committee's needs

Meeting Minutes

as soon as possible. The budgeting process has begun! Pastor Deanna asked each committee chair to also prepare a brief description of the goals or general parameters for their respective committee. A description should demonstrate the use of funds the committee will ask to be budgeted. Kirsten will be asked to help share the necessary information to each committee chair.

Facility Use Policy – Discussion ensued regarding a use policy. Brendan Rorem asked the council for any knowledge or history anyone might have regarding a known policy. Brendan will continue working on this effort. Lynn Tuttle mentioned she might be able to gather some material to use to help the process along.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Report - Tom Elzey spoke on behalf of Chuck Pietka who was absent. August numbers are traditionally down, but our numbers came in stronger than expected, yet we are still behind in the overall operating budget.

Stewardship - Leslie Byrnes reported that the Stewardship Committee, in addition to a broader vision of Stewardship, will also adopt a more traditional approach to stewardship (the fundraising aspect) in the coming year. The kick-off to the 2010 Stewardship Campaign will commence on or around November 1st (All Saints Day). Leslie and her committee will continue with the *Embracing Your Journey through Stewardship* theme. 'Simply Giving' is also going to be pushed and hopefully endorsed for use by the committee in the hope to ensure regular, steady, and continuous giving throughout the year, thereby alleviating the low income amounts during the slow summer months.

Congregational Life - Lynn Tuttle continued discussion about Rally Sunday. Some fine-tuning discussion ensued between some of the planning members. Lynn also reports that we have two fellowship activities coming up this fall, a Fall Festival on October 17th featuring music by Chuck Pieta and David Locke. There will be food and drink (a non-alcoholic event). The Annual Christmas Dinner plans are well underway.

Worship and Music – Jamie Park reported that the effort to raise funds and purchase new "Cranberry" hymnals will be postponed until 2010.

Evangelism - Evangelism has reported on the events planned for Rally Sunday, which will include presentation of the "neighborhood groups" project, as well as updated information in the form of "Church At a Glance," New Member Orientation, testimonials from church members, and church business cards. All of this being designed to deliver the message about our church within the congregation and in the community.

The evangelism committee also reported on the timing of the New Member Orientation programs, of which there will be three. The council members will be expected to attend the second session of each the scheduled orientation programs.

Christian Education - Bridget Swanson reported that a volunteer has come forward to cover the Nursery Supervision needs. Discussion ensued about drafting a policy that relates to the nursery and working with the children. The Library Committee is moving forward in its effort to organize.

Meeting Minutes

Property - Gary related his continuing efforts in maintenance, including saving HTLC some money. He also requested information on a tile person to work on the bathroom.

Social Concerns - Mary Casady will oversee a Social Concerns meeting on Sunday the 20th, following the 10:15 service. The purpose for the meeting is to ascertain the desires of the church community with regard to Social Concerns, and will also focus on current commitments, i.e. Agros and Compass Center as examples. All are invited. The Compass Center breakfast needs are covered through December.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Byrnes
(On behalf of Council Secretary, John Donaldson)

November 10, 2009

Members Present:

Dan T, President
John D, Secretary
Chuck P, Finance
Laurie S, Youth Ministry
Gary S, Property
Mary C, Social Concerns
Tom E, Management
Bridget S, Christian Education
Jeff D, Evangelism
Jamie P, Worship and Music

Leslie B, Stewardship
Lynn T, Congregational Life
Pastor Deanna W, Sr. Pastor
Pastor Sue W, Visitation Pastor

Staff Present:

Kathy F, Youth & Family Ministry

Members Absent:

Brendan R, Vice President; Lindsay A, Past President Ex Officio.

The meeting was called to order by president Dan T at 7:05 P.M.

Devotions - Gary S shared a moving personal homily with the council.

Minutes - The October minutes, having been previously distributed to council members for comment, were approved as amended.

Pastor's Report - Pastor W reported that she has applied, together with three other pastors, for a grant to develop worship and study materials focused on Mark 4:28.

Meeting Minutes

Finance Report - The Treasurer's October report indicated that expenses exceeded receipts by about \$7,000, but that the year-to-date financial position still was positive. Chuck expressed concern that the regular giving for both September and October was down substantially. These are months where giving is normally above average. All other HTLC expenses are on course. The cost of this year's Youth trip to New Orleans (NOLA) has now been fully covered by fund raising and special contributions.

Budget Process Update - Tom E thanked the committee heads for their timely inputs to the budgeting process and reported that the budget process update is well under control. Tom is working with the Management Committee and the Treasurer and expects to have a budget recommendation, on schedule, at the end of the year.

Recommendation to Establish an Audit Committee - The Management Committee and Treasurer recommended to the council that an audit committee be activated to review processes and procedures. It was agreed that such a committee should not "look back in time", as such efforts would only be "academic" and that there was no reason to believe there were losses from any past issues. The proposed committee should rather look ahead and establish procedures and safeguards. A motion was made to appoint an auditor. The motion was seconded, but after some discussion, the motion was tabled until December to allow time to draft a motion that will address questions raised by council members.

Questions were raised regarding the guidelines of our Endowment Committee. Chuck P noted that the foundation document that established the Endowment Committee guides the Endowment Committee and that changes to that document must be ratified by the congregation. Chuck is looking into document definitions in conjunction with the Management Committee.

Stewardship – Pledge Campaign and Fund Raising Coordination & El Milagro Update

Leslie provided a thorough update of our stewardship campaign and procedures for coordination among HTLC groups seeking contributions from members. The council agreed that all such efforts must be coordinated with the chairperson of the Stewardship Committee (Leslie). Details are provided on the Stewardship Committee Minutes, attached to the office copy of this report. Leslie also noted that the committee recommends making a VISA/Mastercard program available for member donations. More details are required, however, and the matter will be considered again at a future meeting.

Mary C provided an update on our congregation's giving to El Milagro in 2009 and indicated we are about \$4,000 short of the goal of \$17,000. A detailed presentation, the El Milagro Financial Summary, is attached to the office copy of these minutes. Agros has requested HTLC to continue sponsorship for a final two years. A motion was made to continue the support of El Milagro for an additional two years at \$15,000 each year. This commitment will remain an "off budget" program; that is, it will not be funded out of the general fund. The motion was seconded, and after some discussion affirming that, while HTLC would do all in its power to honor its pledge, HTLC would not have a legal obligation to do so, the motion passed without dissent.

Meeting Minutes

The council discussed the concept of budgeting for special projects such as El Milagro and is considering whether the funding of future social ministry/outreach programs should be made a commitment of the congregation and carried on the budget. No decision was made.

Following the El Milagro presentation, Mary noted that future outreach plans include continuing support to The Compass Center, initiating a relationship with First Place School, Hamoni, and our Emergency Feeding Program.

Member of the Year Award - The council was provided with the congregation's top recommendations for member of the year. Some members of the church council were excused from deliberations as they were among those mentioned. After some discussion, and a feeling with some that council members should not be considered, the council voted and selected this year's member of the year. The selection will be announced in January.

Library Committee Request for Book Fair - Bridget S requested approval for a proposed book fair to be held on the last two Sundays in January. The sale would feature Acorn books (for children) with half of the profits going to HTLC for library use. A motion was made to go forward with that plan, was seconded and passed unanimously.

Recap of "Coffee With the Council" - It was generally agreed that we should try to improve notification and visibility of future "coffees" to attract more participation.

Annual Meeting Preparations - Pastor W suggested that we make the annual report available to the congregation one week prior to the congregational meeting. Also required prior to the annual meeting are: a slate of candidates to replace outgoing nominating committee members and synod assembly representatives, and biographical sketches of all nominees 3 weeks prior to the meeting.

Committee Updates

Congregational Life - Lynn met with several committee members at the home of Althea E to firm up plans for the annual Christmas Dinner, to be held on December 12. The dinner will be halibut and salmon. We will pay the helpers (some of our youth) \$25. Wine will be served and we will be treated to Christmas songs by our choir leads. Price is expected to be around \$25 per person.

There will be three advent soup suppers, one each on Dec. 2nd, 9th and 16th.

Worship and Music - There will be services at 4 P.M. and 11 P.M. on Christmas Eve. The praise band will provide music at the 4PM service, the Sanctus Choir at the 11 P.M. service. There will be only one service on the Sunday after Christmas.

A program to obtain the new "cranberry" hymnals will begin in the new year.

Meeting Minutes

Youth - Laurie S reported on plans to redecorate the youth room, no money will be required for that project. The high school youth service programs are fairly ambitious and sometimes suffer from less than hoped for participation. Service opportunities in the near future include: two days at N.W. Harvest, and a Christmas project for First Place School.

The 4th and 5th grade students are sponsoring the Angel Tree this year. The tree will go up on the 25th of November. They will shop on the 12th of December and deliver the gifts on the 23rd.

Christian Education - Bridget S announced that the church nursery would have a paid attendant who will receive \$250/ mo in November but would like \$300 per month if continuing into 2010.

The Hamoni bank program continues, the banks will be turned in at the Advent Fair.

Property - Gary S is pursuing a lighting subsidy program for the church with PSE. PSE will conduct a no-cost energy audit of the church. The lower parking lot lights have been put back into service and now operate with a light sensor.

The council received the Property Committee report on the progress of the remodel of the main floor women's restroom and the completion of a new office for Pastor W on the East side of the church complex.

Chuck P reported on a survey (cost \$2,000) of the church roof that was required of HTLC by our insurance company. The report noted that some repair is required in the next year, but that the steep shake roofs over the chapel and sanctuary are in good condition. Chuck recommends that we include in our budget for next year sufficient funds to repair the flat roofs and replace shakes as necessary on the less sloped portions of the shake roof. Cost to be determined.

Evangelism

Jeff D reported on the progress of determining our membership more accurately. 139 households have not responded. He has 100 photos so far for our new directory. Neighborhood group formation continues. Also, Jeff reported that we have received three new members.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
John D, Secretary

December 8, 2009

Members Present:

Dan T, President
Brendan R, Vice President

John D, Secretary
Chuck P, Finance

Meeting Minutes

Laurie S, Youth
Gary S, Property
Bridget S, Christian Education
Jamie P, Worship and Music
Jeff D, Evangelism
Mary C, Social Concerns
Leslie B, Stewardship
Lynn T, Congregational Life
Lindsay A, Ex Officio

Pastor Deanna Wildermuth, Sr. Pastor
Pastor Sue Wanwig, Visitation Pastor

Staff Present:

Kathy Fisher, Youth & Family Ministry

Members Absent: Tom E, Management

The meeting was called to order by president Dan Thieme at 7:07 PM.

Devotions: Brendan R, by way of “making baby Jesus real”, introduced the council to the Christmas song “This Baby”, the lyrics of which are attached to the office copy of this report.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the November council meeting were approved with two improvements.

Pastors’ Reports

Pastor Wanwig updated the council on the planning activities of the Mercer Island Clergy Association regarding the City’s tent city ordinances. The intent of the ordinances is to limit the “burden” on individual neighborhoods by refusing proposed locations within one mile of previous locations, and requiring one year or more between tent cities at a given location. MICA feels that the proposed restrictions are too limiting of churches' rights.

Sue also noted that ushering and logistical help was needed for church services which draw many non-members, such as funerals.

Pastor Wildermuth reported on our new “text talk” opportunity on Wed. mornings at 10:00 AM and Wed. evenings at 6:00 PM. She commented on the MICA Thanksgiving Eve service and the HTLC attendance (3). Pastor Deanna will assist in taped KONG TV Sunday services (Dec. 13th, KONG TV). Christmas service details were presented.

BUSINESS

Completing 2009 Agros / El Milagro Commitment

- a) Mary C proposed that we include a “mini-auction” during our Christmas dinner to raise funds toward our El Milagro pledge. Items auctioned would include excellent seats to opening night performances at the Fifth Avenue Theater. The offer was wholeheartedly accepted by the council.
- b) Mary also proposed that past contributors to El Milagro could be contacted regarding support for this year. Again, it was the sense of the council that this was an acceptable approach. A letter to past El Milagro supporters will be sent.

Agros / El Milagro 2010/11 – Potential Funding Partner

The \$15,000 per year that HTLC has committed to Agros for the support of El Milagro for the next two years is short of the \$50,000 per year need as stated by Agros. Kay S has proposed, separate from HTLC, to create a group of mothers and daughters to raise additional funds for El Milagro. The question was presented whether HTLC would prefer to raise additional funds itself, instead of an additional funding source becoming involved. The council was not in favor of expanding HTLC’s commitment to AGROS.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council

2009 Minutes

Preparation for January 31, 2010 Annual Meeting

Dan outlined the documents and activities required for the annual meeting, which is to be held on January 31st at 9:00 AM. (For details, see meeting agenda appended to office copy of this report.) He asked, furthermore, that all required inputs for the annual reports be e-mailed to Kirsten by January 13th. Anyone having further inputs to "Special Issues" to consider at the annual meeting are asked to present them at the next council meeting.

Committee Updates

Stewardship

Leslie provided a thorough synopsis of the most recent Stewardship Committee meeting, the details of which are attached to the office copy of this report. She noted encouraging increases in the number of households pledging and in the amount pledged for next year.

Congregational Life

Lynn went over the Christmas dinner plans, all is in order. She still needed two of our youth to come forward (for \$25) to be "waiters." David Locke will provide music, as will our choir leads.

Worship and Music

Jamie plans to start our campaign to obtain the new "Cranberry" hymnals with pledge cards in February and orders in March.

Christian Education

Bridget mentioned that we might consider the possibility of requiring a formal parental release of HTLC activity photos which include HTLC children prior to using such photos in church bulletins, website etc. A sample form was provided for discussion (attached to office copy). It was suggested that HTLC should have a formal "parental / child safety policy." Pastor Deanna suggested that we consider a task force separate from the Christian Ed Committee to perform that task. Continuing the previous discussion regarding the perceived need for a parental release form, it was felt that we should adopt something similar to the one provided (see office copy). It was the sense of the council that we should do so, but that no council action was required. Pastor Deanna suggested that we simply make it part of Sunday School registration. Dan further suggested that no form would be necessary if we adopted the practice of not publishing names with photos of church activities except for those for exclusively internal use. Dan asked the Christian Ed Committee to pick up on the issue. They agreed.

Bridget is pleased to report that our nursery attendant, Julie N, is "really good" in the nursery.

Youth

The Youth committee is pleased to announce that all expenses for the New Orleans youth project had been paid in full and that funds were already coming in for next year's one week long "mystery" mission trip.

The youth-sponsored collection of loose change for the Hamomi school in Africa brought in \$425.

Property

Gary has been busy making many improvements to church property, i.e. re-organizing all closets, painting the kitchen, repairing outside lights repairing (most of) the landscape lights. Completion of work in the ladies' room awaits parts. As to replacing the church doors, it appears to be much too expensive at this time. Our energy audit continues.

Evangelism

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council

2009 Minutes

Jeff D reports that his updating of the church membership roll continues. The new church directory is being assembled.

Social Concerns

Several HTLC members visited First Place School and were impressed with their staff and mission. They will ask for HTLC support for the school after the first of the year.

Finance Report

Chuck presented the current financial status. We are doing well but are a bit short of our budget for 2009. He also presented a preliminary budget for 2010 (Details are available in the financial report attached to the office copy of these notes). Chuck requested that all committee leads examine their respective budget estimates and provide feedback by December 31st.

Pastor Deanna requested a single page "benevolence/outreach" summary.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted,
John D, secretary